

DEBUNKING ALFRED THE GREAT

RON SINGER

First off, he was second-rate,
peeping out from the tall grass
in Wessex, his hidey-hole,
conjuring witches and trolls,
as the Vikings rode —marched?—past.

(In case you're confused,
they had a shaggy horse
they almost never used
--only now and then, in war.)

What about Limey disease?
It must have missed him,
as he skulked in wood and park,
since he went on to become
the alpha among heptarchs.

Then, there's the language bit,
how he saved the mother tongue.
Tell that to the folks still trying
to crawl out from among
the ruins of the British empire.

Don't shake your spear at me!
I've got my own Viking fire.
And language? Make mine Greek
(though, even in English, I can gleek!)